November 17, 1999

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the House passage of H. Res. 350 advanced the firm position of the Congress in contradiction to the practice of trafficking in baby body parts for profit.

The topic, sir, is among the most ghastly imaginable. America's traditions of life and liberty are certainly challenged by procedures required to support such a barbaric trade as that which is conducted by the activist group. The protocols requested to receive 4 to 10 per day.

As further support for our efforts, I hereby commend to the House an article delivered to me by Mrs. Kay Schrapel of Greeley, CO.

The harvest of abortion

By Lynn Vincent

WARNING: This story contains some graphic detail.

As Monday morning sunshine spills across the high plains of Aurora, Colo., and a new work week begins, fresh career challenges await Ms. Ying Wei Bong. On Monday, for example, she might scalpel her way through the brain stem of an aborted 24-week-pre-born child, pluck the brain from the baby's peach-sized head and forceps, and plop it into wet ice for later shipment. On Tuesday, she might carefully slice away the delicate tissue that secures a dead child's eyes in its skull, and send the whole, Ms. Ying knows her employer's clients prefer the eyes of dead babies to be whole. One once requested to receive 4 to 10 per day.

Although she works in Aurora at an abortion clinic called the Mayfair Women's Center, Ms. Ying is employed by the Anatomic Gift Foundation (AGF), a Maryland-based nonprofit. AGF is one of at least five U.S. organizations that collect, prepare, and distribute to medical researchers fetal tissue, organs, and body parts that are the products of voluntary abortions.

When "Kelly," a woman who claimed to have been an AGF "technician" like Ms. Ying, approached Life Dynamics in 1997, the pro-life group launched an undercover investigation. The probe unearthed grim, hard-copy evidence of the cross-country flow of baby body parts, including detailed dissection orders, a brochure touting "the freshest tissue available," and price lists for whole babies and parts. One 1999 price list from a company called Opening Lines reads like a cannibal's wish list: Skin $100. Limbs (at least 2) $150. Spinal cord $325. Brain $999 (30% discount if significantly fragmented).

The evidence confirmed what pro-life bioethicists had predicted: the nadir-bound plummet of respect for human life— and the ascendency of death for profit.

"It's the inevitable logical progression of a research enterprise that can come from nothing," notes Gene Rudd, an obstetrician and member of the Christian Medical and Dental Society's Bioethics Commission.

"When we fail to see life as sacred and ordained by God, the reasonable conclusion . . . taking whatever's available to gratify our own self-interests and taking the weakest of the species like jackals. This is the inevitable slide down the slippery slope."

In 1993, President Clinton freshly greased that slope: Föró--serving by the activation of departing patient advocacy groups, Mr. Clinton signed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Revitalization Act, effectively lifting the ban on federally funded research involving the transplantation of fetal tissue. For medical and biotech investigators, it was as though the high government gate barring them from research Shangri-La had finally been thrown open. Potential cures for Parkinson's, AIDS, and cancer suddenly shimmered in the middle distance. The University of Washington, with an NIH-funded embryology laboratory that runs a round-the-clock collection service at abortion clinics, NIH itself advertised (and still advertises) tissue from normal or abnormal embryos and fetuses of deceased gestational ages between 40 days and term.

But, this being the land of opportunity, the fetal-tissue entrepreneurs soon emerged to nip at NIH's well-funded heels. Anatomic Gift Foundation, Opening Lines, and at least two other companies competition AGF representatives say they know of, but decline to name—joined the pack. Each firm formed relationships with abortion clinics. Each also furnished written agreements and consent forms for use by clinic counselors in making women aware of the option to donate their babies' bodies to medical science. According to AGF executive director Brent Bardsley, aborting mothers are not approached about tissue donation until after they've signed a consent to abort.

Back at life line's headquarter, Ms. Ying to work on-site retrieving and dissecting blood tests, preservation, and shipping. Although parts operate under a documentary rubric of obtaining "consent," including the "creation of human-monkey chimeras." In biology, a chimera is an organism created by the grafting or mutation of two genetically different cell types.

Another protocol is up-front about the research themes: "It's clearly a fee-for-space arrangement," explains AGF executive director Brent Bardsley: compensation for services like dissection, blood tests, preservation, and shipping.

Money paid by fetal-tissue providers to abortion clinics is termed a "site fee," and does not, Mr. Bardsley maintains, pay for parts harvested. Instead, the fee compensates clinics for allowing technicians like Ms. Ying to work on-site retrieving and dissecting dead babies—sort of a Frankensteinian sublet.

"It's clearly a fee-for-space arrangement," says Mr. Bardsley. "We occupy a portion of their laboratory, use their clinic supplies, and some line items offsets the use of clinic supplies that we use in tissue procurement."

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According to Mr. Bardsley, fetal-tissue recovery accounts for about 10 percent of AGF’s business. The rest involves the recovery and transfer to researchers of non-transplantable organs and tissue from adult donors. But the fact that AGF covers tissue from all 50 states, Mr. Bardsley could not cite for WORLD an instance in which AGF pays a “site fee” to hospital morgues or funeral homes for the privilege of camping on-site to retrieve adult tissue.

Mr. Bardsley, a trained surgical technician, seems like a friendly guy. On the phone he sounds intelligent, and sincere about his contention that AGF isn’t involved in the fetal-tissue business for the money.

“We have a lot of pride in what we do,” he says. “We think we make a difference with research and researchers’ accessibility to human tissue. Every time you go to a drug store, the drugs on the shelf are there as a result of human tissue donation. You can’t perfect drugs to be used in human beings using animal tissue. AGF operates as a nonprofit and employs fewer than 15 people. Mr. Bardsley’s brother Jim and Jim’s wife Brenda founded the organization. The couple had previously owned a tissue-recovery organization called the International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine (IIAM), which had specialized in fetal-tissue redistribution, counting, for example, Mr. Sick among its clients. But when IIAM’s board of directors decided to withdraw from involvement with fetal tissue, the couple set up AGF—specifically to continue providing fetal tissue or researchers.

Significantly, AGF opened in 1994, the year after President Clinton shuttered the fetal-tissue research ban. Since then, the company’s revenues have rocketed from $180,000 to $2 million in 1998. Did the Bardsleys see a market niche that was too good to pass up? Brenda Bardsley, who is now AGF president, says no. AGF’s economic windfall, she says, is related to the company’s expansion into adult donations, not the transfer of fetal tissue. She says she and her husband felt compelled to continue providing the medical community with fetal tissue “because of the research that was going on.”

“Abortion is legal, but tragic. We see what we’re doing as trying to make the best of a bad situation,” Bardsley told WORLD. “We don’t encourage abortion, but we see that good can come from fetal-tissue research. There is so much wonderful research going on—research that can help save the lives of wanted children.”

Mrs. Bardsley says she teaches her own children that abortion is wrong. A Deep South transplant with a brisk East coast accent, Mrs. Bardsley and her family attend a Southern Baptist church near their home on the Satilla River in White Oak, GA. Mrs. Bardsley homeschools her three children using, she says, a Christian curriculum: “I’ve been taught as this monster, but here I am trying to give my kids a Christian education,” she says, referring to other media coverage of AGF’s fetal-parts enterprise.

Mrs. Bardsley says she’s prayed over whether to do this sort of work. But her brother-in-law Brent Bardsley, a trained surgical technician and longtime West Frankfort resident, the money trail: more dead babies harvested, less overhead. Less overhead, more profit. But Dr. Jones’ own profits may be taking a beating at present. When Life Dynamics released the results of its investigation to West Frankfort’s newspaper The Daily American, managing editor Shannon Woodworth ran a front-page story about an anonymous complaint. “Pro-Lifers: Baby body parts sold out of West Frankfort.” The little town of 9,000 was scandalized. City officials threatened legal action against Dr. Jones and his chief of staff Gayla Rose, a lab technician and longtime West Frankfort resident. The story splashed down in local TV news coverage, and Illinois right-to-life activists vowed to picket Opening Lines. Within a week, Gayla Rose had shut down the company’s West Street location, diameter of the greatest good, of the greater good. But some bioethicists believe that even the greater good has a spending cap.

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Christopher Hook, a fellow with the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in Hannockburn, Ill., calls the exploitation of pre-born children “too high a price regardless of the supposed benefit. We can never feel comfortable with identifying a group of living human souls who can be exploited for the good of the whole.” Dr. Hook says. “Once we have crossed that line, we have breached our covenant with one another as a society, and certainly the covenant of medicine.”

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL GILROY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ethel Gilroy. Ethel was awarded the prestigious award Southeastern Colorado Chapter of the American Red Cross’ Outstanding Supporter for 1999. Repeatedly, Ethel has gone far beyond the call of duty. For most of her life she has been a supporter of the American Red Cross and has been affiliated with the Southeastern Colorado Chapter since 1989. Over the course of the years she has helped countless people stay warm and fed. Ethel also supports the Salvation Army, Library for the Blind, El Pueblo Boys and Girls Ranch, PBS and Habitat for the Humanity. She is to be admired and commended for her contribution and service to the Pueblo community.

Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to this dedicated woman.

RECOGNIZING FLOOD RELIEF WORKERS

HON. SAM JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following young people who gave of themselves to help the people of New Braunfels, Comal, and Seguin, Texas, and Strong City, Kansas, in the wake of severe flooding in the fall of 1998. These men traveled many miles, at their own expense, to assist the citizens of these cities by removing countless loads of mud and debris from their houses and yards and by providing much-needed encouragement to those affected by the devastating floodwaters.

Anthony Anderson II, TX; David Bair, OH; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bedford, CA; Jacob Bradly, AZ; Jacoby Brady, CO; Daniel Dankers, WI; Ryan DePoppe, WI; John Dixon, GA; Stephen Gaither, TX; Travis Gibson, FL; Zechariah Dankers, WI; Warren Burres, IN; Matthew Barber, British Columbia; Ryan Bed...